

Epi Update for Friday, September 7, 2018
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Consumer advisory issued for Ozark Country Sorghum**
- **Cases of West Nile virus continue to increase in Iowa**
- **Exposed to a bat? Rabies resources are available!**
- **In the news: Influenza may be cause of sickness for handful of crew, passengers on Emirates flight to JFK**
- **In the news: Florida cow is country's 6th BSE case**
- **In the news: What the experts want us to know about public health**
- **Infographic: Bats and rabies – A public health guide**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Consumer advisory issued for Ozark Country Sorghum

IDPH, Johnson County Public Health and DIA have issued a consumer advisory for sorghum made by Ozark Country Sorghum in Dunnegan, Missouri. Laboratory tests at SHL indicate the product has extremely high nitrate levels, which can be hazardous, especially if consumed by infants and children.

Two cases of possible methemoglobinemia associated with the consumption of this sorghum are being investigated. Symptoms of methemoglobinemia include shortness of breath, cyanosis, confusion, headache, fatigue, exercise intolerance, weakness and dizziness. Persons with methemoglobinemia should be evaluated by a clinician and are sometimes treated with supplemental oxygen and methylene blue 1% solution.

Officials are working to have the product recalled and to further investigate this product with their counterparts in Missouri. Sorghum is used by some populations in the preparation of infant formulas and toddler foods. Consumers who have purchased Pure Missouri Ozark Country Sorghum should throw it out. The sorghum is packaged in one pint and one quart jars and may be available at grocery stores, specialty retail stores and country stores, or available from online suppliers. Consumers should not return the product to the store.

For more information, visit

www.idph.iowa.gov/News/ArtMID/646/ArticleID/158234/Consumer-Advisory-Issued-for-Ozark-Country-Sorghum-9418.

Cases of West Nile virus continue to increase in Iowa

IDPH is continuing to receive reports of West Nile virus infection from across the state. Currently, there are over 50 cases that have either been confirmed or are under investigation. This is the highest number of cases in Iowa since 2003.

For more information, visit www.idph.iowa.gov/cade/vectorborne-illness.

Exposed to a bat? Rabies resources are available!

Similar to past years, the number of calls IDPH is receiving about potential bat exposures has increased dramatically this month. Fall is typically the time that these calls are most frequent. Each exposure situation is different, but there are general guidelines for potential bat exposures describing whether or not rabies prophylaxis is recommended.

In general, a person is considered to be potentially exposed to a bat if they have direct contact with the bat or if they are in the same room as the bat and cannot be sure they weren't bitten, most often because they are a child or are sleeping. If the bat is captured, it can be tested for rabies. Otherwise, it is assumed the bat could have been rabid and rabies post-exposure prophylaxis is recommended.

The IDPH website has more detailed information regarding rabies exposures and prophylaxis. These resources include guidance, fact sheets, flow charts and more. As always, IDPH is available for rabies consultation 24/7/365 - call 515-242-5935 during business hours or 515-323-4360 outside of business hours.

For more information about rabies, visit idph.iowa.gov/rabies/information-for-providers.

In the news: Influenza may be cause of sickness for handful of crew, passengers on Emirates flight to JFK

www.cnn.com/2018/09/05/health/new-york-plane-jfk-passengers-ill/index.html

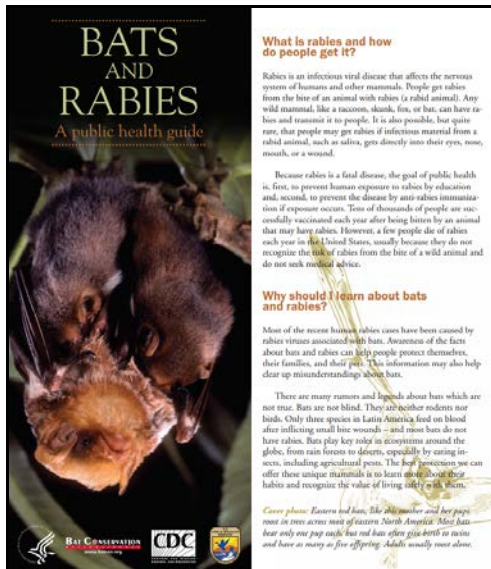
In the news: Florida cow is country's 6th BSE case

outbreaknewstoday.com/florida-cow-countrys-6th-bse-case-44747/

In the news: What the experts want us to know about public health

www.nytimes.com/2018/09/04/upshot/what-the-experts-want-us-to-know-about-public-health.html

Infographic: Bats and rabies – A public health guide



To view in full size, visit www.batcon.org/pdfs/BRBrochureaspages.pdf.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736